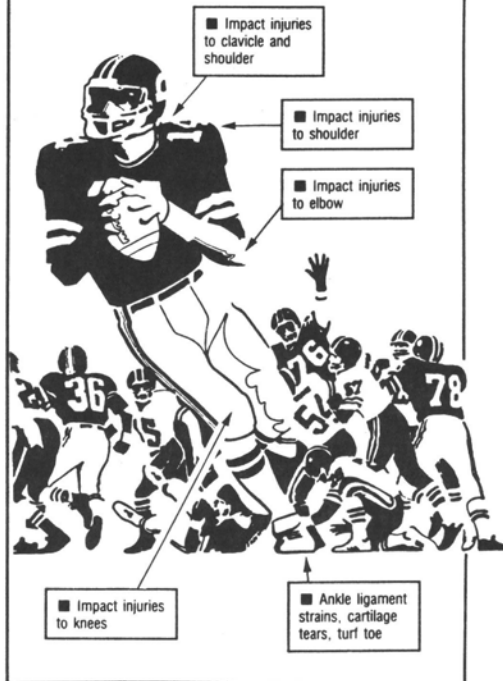


Grass Sod vs. Artificial Turf

Improved maintenance procedures and concerns for player safety has caused many stadiums with artificial turf surfaces to switch back to grass systems. Grass cushions a player's fall better than the artificial surface.

Another disadvantage of the artificial surface is its short lifespan. It usually requires replacement every 8-10 years. As the artificial surface ages, there are certain injuries related to each stage of the surface's wear and tear, but "turf burns" occur at all stages. In a healthy, thick turfgrass playing surface, there are 6 turfgrass plants in each square inch, 850 per square foot, and over 40 million per football field. A single grass plant can have 387 miles of roots, which means that beneath the playing surface is a tangled mass of billions of miles of roots. This plant density is why turfgrass is a soft cushion for sports.

Common Injuries On Artificial Turf



Natural turf in domes

Technology for installing and maintaining natural turf athletic fields in domed stadiums and other indoor facilities is now available from the Greenway Group of Horsham, Pa.

Greenway, says **Thomas L. Ripley Sr.**, has a patent pending on the Integrated Turf Management (ITM) System, which can also be used over existing artificial surfaces.

ITM Provides the first transportable natural turfgrass system, complete with an all-new greenspec lightweight growing medium. The system, which **Dr. Henry Indyk** of Rutgers University helped develop, weighs a fraction of typical growing alternatives. ITM systems also can be interchanged to meet the demand of the sports activity.

For more information, contact Greenway at (215)343-0110.

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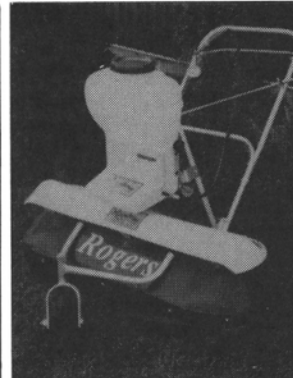
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